

**CLEAN COPY OF SUBSTITUTE SPECIFICATION:**

**CEILING FAN BLADE COVER**

**BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION**

The paddle/blade, invented and developed for the use of moving and stopping, is constructed out of various types of woods, plastics, metals and a combination thereof. This useful creation over time became the foundation of some of the most popular products we've used across the country and world today. For example, the ceiling fan gives us the ability to redistribute air to cool or heat an environment and to exhaust an environment in order to expel foul odors, poisonous gases, fumes, toxins and the like. Covers have been developed to protect and customize ceiling fan blades. Ceilings fans require careful handling during cleaning and covering to avoid damage. Also, access to fans is generally performed through the use of a ladder, potentially exposing workers to injury from falls. Thus, blade covers need to be easy to install and remove to avoid damaging the fan and injuring installers. Ceiling fans are also necessarily balanced to reduce wobble, thereby reducing the wear on the bearings and prolonging the life of the fan motor. Therefore, blade covers should be sufficiently lightweight so as to not affect the balance of the fan.

Prior art fan covers, upon experimental reproduction, were determined to be of excessive weight and bulky design.

Thus, there remains a need in the art for a fan blade cover that is easy to install and remove and that is lightweight such that it does not create a drag notable to the eye nor to the

fan motor and does not create an imbalance in the fan. Furthermore there remains a need for a cover that is close- or tight-fitting and well-designed such that it is unnoticeable as a cover.

#### SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The present invention is directed toward a lightweight ceiling fan blade cover, capable of being installed onto a corresponding ceiling fan blade; the cover an elastic band to produce an elastic circumference of the cover providing removable adherence of the cover to the corresponding blade and providing the cover to take on the shape and appearance of the corresponding ceiling fan blade when installed thereon.

The present invention is further directed towards a lightweight percale cotton cloth ceiling fan blade cover, capable of being installed onto a corresponding ceiling fan blade; the cover an elastic band to produce an elastic circumference of the cover providing removable adherence of the cover to the corresponding blade and providing the cover to take on the shape and appearance of the corresponding ceiling fan blade when installed thereon.

The present invention is yet further directed toward a method of constructing a ceiling fan blade cover including the steps of providing an oblong shaped design; cutting the design from a lightweight material to form a main body of the cover; sewing a surged edge on the main body of the cover to prevent raveling; connecting an elastic band to the outside edge thereby creating an elastic circumference; connecting ends of an elastic strap to opposite sides of the elastic circumference; thereby producing a lightweight ceiling fan blade cover.

Thus, one aspect of the present invention provides a ceiling fan blade cover made from lightweight cloth ceiling fan blade cover, capable of being installed onto a corresponding ceiling fan blade; the cover having an oblong-shaped body having an outside

edge with defining boundary lines of the body having an identifiable outside surface and inside surface, the outside surface having surged edge to prevent raveling and to create a stronger foundation; the outside surface edge further including an elastic band connected thereto and having ends that are bar-tacked and attached to the cover edges to produce an elastic circumference of the cover, the elastic circumference being connected at opposite sides by ends of an elastic strap having two cut and unfinished ends that are bar-tacked for providing removable adherence of the cover to the corresponding blade and providing the cover to take on the shape and appearance of the corresponding ceiling fan blade when installed thereon.

Another aspect of the present invention provides a ceiling fan blade cover including a lightweight percale cotton ceiling fan blade cover, capable of being installed onto a corresponding ceiling fan blade; the cover having an oblong-shaped body having an outside edge with defining boundary lines of the body having an identifiable outside surface and inside surface, the outside surface having surged edge to prevent raveling and to create a stronger foundation; the outside surface edge further including an elastic band connected thereto and having ends that are bar-tacked and attached to the cover edges to produce an elastic circumference of the cover, the elastic circumference being connected at opposite sides by ends of an elastic strap having two cut and unfinished ends that are bar-tacked for providing removable adherence of the cover to the corresponding blade and providing the cover to take on the shape and appearance of the corresponding ceiling fan blade when installed thereon.

Yet another aspect of the present invention provides a method of constructing a ceiling fan blade cover including the steps of providing a oblong shaped design, said design

having an outside edge and a main body, said main body having an outside surface and an inside surface; cutting the design from a lightweight material to form an oblong-shaped main body of the cover; sewing a surged edge on the main body of the cover to prevent raveling; connecting an elastic band to the outside edge thereby creating an elastic circumference; connecting ends of an elastic strap to opposite sides of the elastic circumference; thereby producing a lightweight ceiling fan blade cover, capable of being installed onto a corresponding ceiling fan blade, such that the cover has an oblong-shaped body having an outside edge with defining boundary lines of the body having an identifiable outside surface and inside surface, the outside surface having surged edge to prevent raveling and to create a stronger foundation; the outside surface edge further including an elastic band connected thereto and having ends that are bar-tacked and attached to the cover edges to produce an elastic circumference of the cover, the elastic circumference being connected at opposite sides by ends of an elastic strap having two cut and unfinished ends that are bar-tacked for providing removable adherence of the cover to the corresponding blade and providing the cover to take on the shape and appearance of the corresponding ceiling fan blade when installed thereon.

#### BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWING

FIG. 1. is a view of the front side of a completed cloth ceiling fan cover, oblong shaped and smooth in appearance, which is installed by the means of pulling on and removed by the means of pulling off.

FIG. 2. is a view of the backside of the fan cover of FIG. 1.

#### DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

In the following description, like reference characters designate like or corresponding parts throughout the several views. Also in the following description, it is to be understood that such terms as "forward," "rearward," "front," "back," "right," "left," "upwardly," "downwardly," and the like are words of convenience and are not to be construed as limiting terms. Referring now to the drawings in general, the illustrations are for the purpose of describing a preferred embodiment of the invention and are not intended to limit the invention thereto.

In comparison and consideration to the prior art in this field, this ceiling fan cover herein disclosed is lightweight, using the least amount of fabric and the lightest form of fabric/thread on the market, without sacrificing beauty. In a preferred embodiment, percale cotton is used, as it is durable, stylish, and cost-effective. It is also absorbent to flame retardant chemicals, dyes, and "glow in the dark matter".

The present invention is design for rapid application, generally about five seconds to apply. The present invention is also easy to manufacture, and can be manufactured in about two minutes.

The present invention is also designed for mass production and distribution. Design considerations were made to facilitate packaging, storage and distribution in a bulk fashion.

This improved cover is simply made of two types of materials, 1.) a light weight piece of fabric, preferably cotton, with a creative design or simply a solid shade, cut oblong accordantly (5/8 in. beyond the edge of the paddle/blade) using (preferably percale cotton, a lightweight fabric, excellent because of the low to moderate thread count, durable for washing many times over, machine drying and low temp. ironing or no ironing required) and 2.) a 1/4 in. to 1 in. wide elastic for the sides which is 2/3 the length around the cover, which

is feasible, to the actual inch for inch around the cover, which would be considered as the entire circumference. The margin within this space can be used in the form of variations, the scope of the action remains consistent throughout the areas in design and utility) and one to five straps of the same width 1/4 in. to 1 in. wide elastic 3 in. to 4 in. long on the back spaced evenly, thereby securely securing the cover to the paddles/blades. However, extra devices add more objects and weight to the fan blade, thereby creating more drag and inertia, both potentially contributing to early failure of the fans' motor parts. This 1/8 in. thick paddle/blade attached to a small motor cannot with stand the rigors of too much weight, even presented in ounces.

It was found in experimentation that a combined total weight of 2.5 to 5 whole ounces only can be attached to the paddle/blade without interfering with the fans operation, paddles/blades degrees and balance.

The present invention is designed to be installed on a fan blade from below with minimal effort. More specifically, the one person who is applying the cover from underneath the fan can use one hand only to apply the cover. The installer merely needs to hook one end of the cover over the appropriate end of the fan blade, then stretch the cover over the other end of the fan blade. The strap can then be fastened with a single hand. Thus, the installer can install the cover with one hand and hold onto the ladder with the other hand, thereby reducing the chances of falling off the ladder.

Referring now to the drawings, Figure 1 shows an oblong shaped design referred to as a cover 10. The cover 10 has a main body 12, in a preferred embodiment formed from a flexible lightweight percale fabric. The maximum weight of fabric used preferably does not exceed about one ounce after construction into the cover 10. The cover possesses no outer

seams in the fabric, no matter the size of the ceiling fan paddle/blade, thereby being more esthetically pleasing. In the preferred embodiment, percale cotton is the preferred fabric and a thin elastic band circumference 11 which is sewn onto the percale cotton (not shown) which allows its oblong shape to adapt or conform to any shape of paddle/blade, including round, beveled, square, cathedral or wood, plastic heavy cardboard, metal or any combination thereof; any formations or deviations within or out of the scope of these named shapes, not to exclude damages, normal wear and tear, erosions, eruptions, fractures, cravings or designs intentional or unintentional.

Referring now to the drawing FIG. 2, the reverse of FIG. 1., shows a oblong cover 10 which is preferably composed of percale cotton, including any designer blends because of the fabric's versatility in design, color and pattern. The cover is formed by sewing the elastic band 22 over the top of the fabric at the fabric's circumference 24. The thin elastic band 22 is preferably 1/4 inch width.

The cover 10 has a seam line 18, which is present at the base of the cover 14, also described as the narrow end. This closed seam 18 is a heavy bar tack stitch 19 that allows the main body 12 and the elastic band 22 to maintain a sealed position. Thus, the completion of the elastic and the finishing of the adjoining between the two materials in their conclusion form a seam. The cover thus designed needs no other apparatus for attachment, such as a device for passing through, thread, apply, attach, incorporate or assemble, thereby facilitating the installment of the cover and permitting single-handed installation. The preferred materials, percale cotton and elastic strap, makes this invention the lightest of all the previous art and the simplest to apply and manufacture. A cover can be made in two minutes, from start to completion, and applied in about five seconds.

The selection of these materials for this invention creates a cover 10 that holds fast to the fan blade and weighs less than about 1 ounce.

The 1/4 circumference 24 and the elastic band 22 permits the present invention to hold fast to the blade's narrow end 14 and broad end 16 with ease, eliminating any need for additional fabric, passages, hook-and-loop fasteners, glue, air ducts, ventilation holes, special cuts, drawstrings, spandex, elastomeric or stretch materials, etc., or other types of devices which have been used in prior arts such as; U.S. Pat. No. 5,591,005, 5,564,900, 5,281,093, 5,591,006, 4,832,572, 5,516,264, 4,676,721, 5,470,205, 5,947,686, 6,015,261, etc.

The elastic strap 26 is preferably 1/4 inch in width and is made of elastic material identical to the circumference 24. The elastic strap maintains the flat, flush, and smooth appearance of the cover 10 by creating a side-to-side, constricting, or snugging pull that keeps all decorative patterns in position.

The strap indirectly provides a sense of added protection and comfort to the consumer until the invention in fact becomes a regular seen item and used in the houses, homes and offices. The snug and sturdy fit provided by the strap conveys a notion of safety while this cover moves in a circular fashion at any fan speed.

In case the cover loses its strap 26 or has it removed for any reason, the cover 10 will not take flight, come apart or slide off the paddle/blade, being held in place by the elastic circumference.

The elastic strap 26 is 3 1/2 inches in a relax state, and stretches to 4 1/2 inches when applied to the paddle/blade and stress is added. The cut or loose ends of the 3 1/2 inch strap 26 is heavily bar tacked underneath the elastic circumference, seen at the seam lines 28 and 30,



for beauty, strength, neatness, and flexibility.

The present invention is thus a ceiling fan blade cover including a lightweight percale cotton cloth ceiling fan blade cover, capable of being installed onto a corresponding ceiling fan blade; the cover having an oblong-shaped body having an outside edge with defining boundary lines of the body having an identifiable outside surface and inside surface, the outside surface having surged edge 20 to prevent raveling and to create a stronger foundation; the outside surface edge further including an elastic band connected thereto and having ends that are bar-tacked 19 and attached to the cover edges to produce an elastic circumference of the cover, the elastic circumference 11 being connected at opposite sides by ends of an elastic strap 26 having two cut and unfinished ends 31, 32 that are bar-tacked for providing removable adherence of the cover to the corresponding blade and providing the cover to take on the shape and appearance of the corresponding ceiling fan blade when installed thereon. The elastic strap is preferably thin. The cover is preferably a durable, welcoming, long lasting, adaptable cover. The cover is preferably fabricated from the best and most durable, multitask, and cost efficient fabric which will conform to all shapes, cut well, not slide, adjoins with other materials best, matches well, and easiest to find, transports well, stores well, manufactures and fit after production all types of designed edges. The fabric is one that can preferably be advertised on, dye, imitated, duplicated, copies, holds up to heat and dirt well, and suitable for any room or matching expensive to inexpensive linens, silks, satin, rayon, synthetics materials.

Preferably, a multiplicity of covers for removable attachment to each of a corresponding multiplicity of ceiling fan blades on a single fan can be provided, the covers forming a set to provide a uniform, matching appearance.

Another preferred embodiment of the present invention includes a ceiling fan blade cover, including a lightweight ceiling fan blade cover, capable of being installed onto a corresponding ceiling fan blade; the cover having an oblong-shaped body having an outside edge with defining boundary lines of the body having an identifiable outside surface and inside surface, the outside surface having surged edge to prevent raveling and to create a stronger foundation; the outside surface edge further including an elastic band connected thereto and having ends that are bar-tacked and attached to the cover edges to produce an elastic circumference of the cover, the elastic circumference being connected at opposite sides by ends of an elastic strap having two cut and unfinished ends that are bar-tacked for providing removable adherence of the cover to the corresponding blade and providing the cover to take on the shape and appearance of the corresponding ceiling fan blade when installed thereon. In a preferred embodiment, the cover is formed of a cotton cloth. Preferably, the cover total weight is about one ounce.

The present invention also includes a method of constructing a ceiling fan blade cover, the steps including: providing a oblong shaped design, said design having an outside edge and a main body, said main body having an outside surface and an inside surface; cutting the design from a lightweight material to form an oblong-shaped main body of the cover; sewing a surged edge on the main body of the cover to prevent raveling; connecting an elastic band to the outside edge thereby creating an elastic circumference; connecting ends of an elastic strap to opposite sides of the elastic circumference; thereby producing a lightweight ceiling fan blade cover, capable of being installed onto a corresponding ceiling fan blade, such that the cover has an oblong-shaped body having an outside edge with defining boundary lines of the body having an identifiable outside surface and inside surface,

the outside surface having surged edge to prevent raveling and to create a stronger foundation; the outside surface edge further including an elastic band connected thereto and having ends that are bar-tacked and attached to the cover edges to produce an elastic circumference of the cover, the elastic circumference being connected at opposite sides by ends of an elastic strap having two cut and unfinished ends that are bar-tacked for providing removable adherence of the cover to the corresponding blade and providing the cover to take on the shape and appearance of the corresponding ceiling fan blade when installed thereon. The method can further include the step of sewing the outside edge of the design to the main body of the cover. Preferably, the elastic strap is centrally located on the body of the cover. Also, the elastic band is sewn to the body of the cover. Another step is preferably placing a triple double bar tack stitch in the most narrow end to add strength to the band attachment and further including the step of bar tacking an unbroken strap in a most center part of the cover; and even more preferably including the step of bar tacking the elastic strap in a center part of the oblong shaped body of the cover.